

that H.R. 930 provides a delicate balance of greater Government efficiency, without compromising the integrity of its employees. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998. Our taxpayers and Government employees deserve nothing less. Vote "YES" on H.R. 930.

HONORING THE REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR CONTINUED EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Regional Workforce Development Board for its service to the greater New Haven community in Connecticut. The backbone of any community is the relationship between businesses and residents. For the past twenty years, the Board, which is the Private Industry Council for greater New Haven, has nurtured this relationship to expand the regional economy. The Regional Workforce Development Board has served as a liaison between the business community and area residents, narrowing the gap between employers' needs and the skills of the region's potential and existing workforce.

With advancing technology rapidly changing the business environment, employers face the challenges of upgrading the skills of their workforces. Employees must obtain the skills needed by industry. The Board has implemented a strategy that gives residents of Greater New Haven essential skills, and creates a pool of qualified individuals available to work.

The Regional Workforce Development Board provides job training to thousands of greater New Haven residents each year. It focuses on the entire community including summer youth job programs and special opportunities for the economically disadvantaged. The contributions that the Board has made to the New Haven community are remarkable. Its work truly represents the heart and the spirit of our community by ensuring that residents and businesses grow together.

1998 marked three anniversaries for the Board. It marked the twentieth anniversary of the creation of private industry councils. Fifteen years ago, the council assumed responsibility for overseeing federal employment and training programs. And, the Private Industry Council evolved into the Regional Workforce Development Board five years ago.

By administering a variety of innovative federal and state job training programs, the Board has filled a need for thousands of area residents and businesses. Businesses are helped by ensuring that job applicants have the training they need. Employees are helped by receiving skill training so that they are employable after downsizing or a layoff. Area residents have been trained to work in manufacturing, at hotels, and to develop the skills of at-risk youth. They have assisted many families in making the transition to the workforce following passage of the welfare reform bill.

The Workforce Development Board has made greater New Haven a far better place to

live and work. I am proud to honor the Board for these accomplishments, and for all of the work it has done to help our region's workforce, businesses and community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BROWN'S BAKERY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding organization from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This year, Brown's Bakery, in Defiance, Ohio, is celebrating a milestone achievement. 1998 marks the One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of operations for Brown's Bakery.

Brown's Bakery has been a mainstay of the Defiance community for more than a century. Brown's Bakery is much more than just an employer for the area. Brown's has been and continues to be part of a close-knit family in and around Defiance. Brown's Bakery is an invaluable partner to Defiance and all those living in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Brown's Bakery embodies the spirit of enterprise that we hear so much about. Beginning in the early 1870's, Brown's Bakery started a long lasting tradition by making some of the finest baked goods and products found anywhere in Northwest Ohio. For more than one hundred twenty-five years, the Brown family has worked diligently to ensure that the vision set by Reinhard and Emilie Curdes Brown is continued.

Throughout its long and rich tradition, Brown's Bakery has been committed to the Defiance community. Again and again, Brown's Bakery has shown its dedication through support of various groups and organizations. Whether it is assisting Defiance High School with its football stadium, local groups like the United Way or Boy and Girl Scouts of America, or its forty-year sponsorship of Bunny League baseball, Brown's Bakery is always there willing to lend a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to recognize Brown's Bakery on the special occasion of its One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration. The Brown family and all those associated with Brown's Bakery truly embody the spirit of entrepreneurship, enterprise, and community-minded support and dedication. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in this special tribute, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

A SALUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE JANE HARMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a very unique Member of this body. Congresswoman JANE HARMAN is leav-

ing the House, and while we will miss her presence and service, we can't help but share in her excitement as she moves on.

Most of us know her as our friend JANE. But many in Washington call her GI Jane, and for good reason. This is the woman who makes it through the Army physical training test without breaking a sweat, and supports our military women and men without missing a beat.

I'll always remember how JANE forced this body to recognize that the women of our Nation's armed services should be rewarded, not punished, for their bravery and service. Yet when some in our Congress sought to limit their right to control their own bodies, JANE was always there to speak out for our women soldiers.

And JANE was always there when her district needed her. She saved jobs, protected her district's military base and worked to make our Federal Government accountable to its people. Mrs. HARMAN has been an especially indefatigable advocate for her native State of California.

We'll certainly miss Congresswoman HARMAN. But we have to realize that GI Jane has bigger and better things waiting to be explored, and she has another name as well: Mom. So JANE, as you return to your family, and to the life that awaits you after Congress, take with you the memories of your service in the House of Representatives. California—and Congress—is better for your time here.

HONORING THOMAS COURY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Thomas Coury, a kindhearted man that dedicated his life to enhancing the well-being of others.

Born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, Thomas Coury came to the Greater Cleveland area in 1958, along with his three brothers, in response to the need for concrete pouring. Within one year, Thomas and his three brothers established the Concrete Wall Company and began pouring foundations for homes all over Brook Park.

With an innate ability to care for others and a passion to reach out, Thomas and his brothers established Aristocrat Health Care. There, Thomas began his lifelong career in elderly care, converting schools, motels and other buildings into nursing and retirement homes. Through years of experience and development, Thomas and his brother have expanded Aristocrat Health Care into a multi-operational business. Stretching services throughout Cuyahoga and Lorain County extending into Florida.

Outside of the business sector Thomas Coury was a man of vision, and dedicated much of his time to civic and political affairs. Striving for our youth to succeed, Thomas helped many young people higher their education and set endowment funds at area Catholic Schools. In addition to helping the youth, Thomas was a leader in the community as well. In 1995, Thomas accompanied President Clinton and Hillary Rodman Clinton on Air Force One to Jordan for the signing of a historic Middle East peace accord.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Thomas Coury, a man who labored for the people and gave to his community all that he had to offer.

Mr. Coury is survived by his wife, Theresa; a son, Thomas J.; daughters, Teri Strimpel and Tracy A. Ade; six grandchildren; three brothers and two sisters.

HONORING EDWARD ALEXANDER
BOUCHET FOR OUTSTANDING
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Beta Tau Boule Chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is memorializing a man whose lifetime achievements can only be described as inspiring. As a resident of New Haven, Connecticut, Edward Alexander Bouchet was both an accomplished physicist and educator—described as a consummate scholar, very knowledgeable in all areas, yet extremely modest and a person who set a wonderful example of politeness and graciousness for the community.

Born in 1852, Edward Bouchet grew to be an exceptional figure in African American history. Bouchet's accomplishments as a leader in the academic achievements of African Americans are a true legacy to their heritage. Bouchet became not only the first African American to obtain a doctorate in any discipline, but one of the first six to be honored with a Doctorate in Physics in the Western Hemisphere and one of the few among many entitled to wear the Phi Beta Kappa Key.

The countless lives which he touched as he traveled the country, were inspired by this remarkable man. Dr. Bouchet has been described by former students as the contributing factor to continue and go on to greater achievements in higher education. Dr. Bouchet's quiet, scholarly life reflects a deep devotion to teaching and good works.

Returning to New Haven in 1916, Dr. Bouchet was laid to rest in his place of birth two years later. Today, I am honored to join with Paul McCraven and the Beta Tau Boule Chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and the many sponsors, as they commemorate the outstanding lifetime achievements of Doctor Edward Alexander Bouchet with the unveiling of a new burial monument. His lifelong dedication to education and his contributions to African-American history set in stone—a legacy never to be forgotten.

TOM BRADLEY TRIBUTE

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in tribute to the former mayor of the City of Los Angeles, and a friend, the late honorable Tom Bradley. Mayor Bradley was a trailblazer and a leader among leaders. History will record that Tom Bradley was the first Black mayor of Los Angeles. He led that city through two decades that were often filled with

tumultuous social change. Mayor Bradley integrated Los Angeles' City Hall from the top down and in so doing he inspired courage and success throughout the nation's Black community.

Those who knew Mayor Bradley, knew him as a soft-spoken man who came from humble origins, a share cropper's son who was so dedicated to public service he rose to become a world class leader. Tom Bradley spent his life crossing racial barriers and fighting racism. He made many remarkable contributions to our nation and forever changed our society for the better. Today we celebrate the legacy Tom Bradley gave us. We cherish his memory. May his spirit continue to guide us for generations to come.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3789, THE
CLASS ACTION JURISDICTION
ACT OF 1998

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3789, the Class Action Jurisdiction Act of 1998. This legislation severely hinders the rights of individuals seeking relief in the form of a State class action claim.

Under the current system, individuals with similar injuries but limited resources are able to seek compensation as a certified State class action. Beneficiaries of the current system include injured individuals that are seeking relief under State consumer protection laws. However, this measure seeks to remove certified class action claims from State to Federal court when any member of the plaintiff class is a citizen of a different State than the defendant.

Further, it eliminates the minimal claim amount currently required for a class action claim to be removed to Federal court. These provisions will only increase the difficulty of plaintiffs seeking relief when individual and widespread harm has been inflicted.

Whether the issue involves excessive amounts of judicial vacancies on the Federal bench, or the lack of judgeships within the system, the removal of State class action claims to the Federal court system will create an enormous caseload burden. Further, it is becoming more costly and time consuming for individuals seeking class action certification in Federal court under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. This combination is an affront to the basic rights of individuals seeking compensation in cases where the public's health and safety have been compromised.

Without regard for individuals subjected to careless and reckless health and safety violations, this measure provides significant protections and benefits to corporate America. As the 105th Congress debates proposals regarding health care, and environmental and consumer protections, H.R. 3789 will usurp the rights of individuals to seek relief through class action claims in States which provide stronger protections than currently provided under Federal law.

For example, enactment of this bill into law would provide a vehicle for removal of class action cases against the tobacco industry to

Federal court. Such changes will create further difficulties for claimants seeking compensation under more stringent Federal laws, while protecting the willful and reckless practices of these companies.

In addition, this bill would hinder class action claims against the gun manufacturing industry, since Federal courts are not likely to apply the forum State's laws with regard to the plaintiff's claims. Finally, this measure would further limit the already restricted abilities of ERISA-insured patients to seek the cost of benefits denied in a State court. Overall, this bill allows companies to engage in careless and damaging marketing, manufacturing, and service practices without regard for those who rely on their products.

Mr. Speaker, this special interest legislation provides further protections to major corporations who seek to avoid being held responsible for their reckless actions. Further, it unilaterally rescinds a reasonable mechanism for State courts to resolve cases brought before them, only to further overburden our Federal court system.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR.
HELMUT SCHMIDT FOR HIS OUT-
STANDING ACHIEVEMENTS TO
THE FIELD OF MEDICINE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay very special tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens, Dr. Helmut Siegfried Schmidt.

Dr. Schmidt is truly an internationally recognized scholar, who has worked tirelessly in pioneering an important aspect of medical science. Through outstanding leadership and unwavering vision, Dr. Schmidt burgeoned the field of sleep medicine.

Dr. Schmidt began his medical career in Canada. A graduate with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Toronto, he completed his one-year rotating internship at the Toronto East General Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. A few short years later, Dr. Schmidt extended his studies to the Buckeye State by completing his residency training at the Ohio State University Hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, not long after coming to Ohio and completing his formal medical training, Dr. Schmidt became a naturalized United States citizen. Upon taking his oath of citizenship in the early 1970's, he began a long and decorated service career in the United States Army Reserve achieving the rank of Colonel, and commanding several Hospital and Medical Units during his illustrious twenty-two year career. He is truly a great American patriot.

Dr. Schmidt's crowing achievements have been in the area of sleep medicine. In recent years, Dr. Schmidt has founded the Ohio Sleep Medicine Institute, the Sleep Medicine Research Foundation, and Sleep Medicine International. He was the first president of the American Board of Sleep Medicine, and chaired the Ohio Psychiatric Association Task Force on Sleep Medicine. Dr. Schmidt was awarded the Nathaniel Kleitman Distinguished Service Award—the highest award given in North America in the field of Sleep Disorders